

AI
cont.
filed on December 16, 1997, ^{*now abandoned*} each of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

In the claims:

Please delete claims 1-50 and 71 without prejudice to inclusion of claims directed to the subject matter thereof in one or more other patent applications.

REMARKS

Claims 51-70 and 72-74 remain pending following entry of this Preliminary Amendment. Claims 1-50 and 71 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 51, 65, 69, and 72-74 are the only independent claims.

A specification paragraph has been amended simply to update priority information. That amendment includes no new matter. For the Examiner's convenience, a "Marked-Up Copy of Amended Specification Paragraph" is enclosed, on which text added to the paragraph is underlined and text deleted from the paragraph is ~~struck through~~. A "Clean Copy of Amended Specification Paragraph" is also enclosed, showing the paragraph as it should appear following amendment.

The Applicant respectfully contends that each of claims 51-70 and 72-74 is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable office action on the merits is requested at the earliest possible time.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey E. Thomas

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(Date)

By: 

Gary D. Colby, Ph.D., J.D.

Registration No. 40,961

AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD, L.L.P.

One Commerce Square

2005 Market Street - 22nd Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19103-7086

Telephone: 215-965-1200

Direct Dial: 215-965-1285

Facsimile: 215-965-1210

E-Mail: GColby@akingump.com